ASSOCIATED PRESS

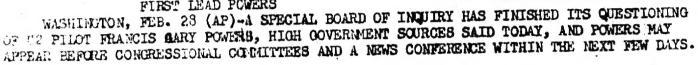
FEBRUARY 28, 1962

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URGENT

FIRST LEAD POWERS



THE TIMING OF THE POWERS! APPEARANCES ON CAPITOL HILL AND BEFORE NEWSMEN STILL IS UNCERTAIN.

MEANWHILE, THE 32-YEAR-OLD FLIER WILL BE KEPT BEHIND A WALL OF SECRECY A BIT LONGER, ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THAT HE IS A FREE AGENT AND CAN COME AND GO AS HE PLEASES. THEY SAID, TOO, THAT IT WILL HE UP TO POWERS HIMSELF TO DECIDE WHETHER HE WISHES TO HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE, BUT THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THIS PROBABLY WILL COME THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE.

THIS IS THE SITUATION AS CUTLINED BY ONE ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN:

THE SPECIAL BOARD OF INQUIRY THAT LOOKED INTO THE POWERS CASE HAS FINISHED ITS TASK AND TURNED OVER ITS REPORT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO JOHN B. MCCONE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. MICONE NOW IS REVIEWING IT AND IT IS HE WHO WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION ON WHAT IS TO BE DONE ABOUT POWERS, IF ANYTHING.

THE INQUIRY BOARD WAS REPORTED YESTERDAY TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT UNDER THE DIRCUM-STANCES, POWERS HANDLED HEMSELF ABOUT AS WELL AS HE COULD HAVE WHEN HIS HIGH-FLYING PHOTOGRAPHIC RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS DOWNED INSIDE RUSSIA MAY 1, 1960. POWERS WAS THIED IN MOSCOW AND SENT TO PRIMON ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES. HE WAS FREED FRB. 10 IN AN EXCHANCE FOR COL. RUDOLF ABEL, BOVIET MASTER SPY CONVICTED BY THE UNITED STATES.

MCCONE WILL BE TESTIFYING TODAY AND TOMORROW IN CLOSED SESSIONS BEFORE THE SENATE AND HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ANGED SERVICES COMMITTEES. THE COMMITTEES WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WANT TESTIMONY FROM POWERS. THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AIREADY HAS AMNIOUNCED THAT IT WANTS TO QUESTION THE FLIER, PROBABLY NEXT WEEK.

AL LVX COVERMENT OFFICIALS SAY THAT POWERS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS UNTIL AFTER OUNTERSTONAL COMMITTEES HAVE FINISHED QUIZZING HIM. SO APPARENTLY THERE COULD HE NO TENS CONFERENCE UNTIL SOME TIME NEXT WEEK AT THE EARLIEST.

PRESUMABLY MCCOME WILL FINISH REVIEWING THE INQUIRY BOARD'S REPORT WITHIN A MATTER OF HIGHS, SINCE IT IS ASSUMED HE WILL HAVE DONE SO IN ADVANCE OF HIS TESTIFYING ON CAPITAL HILL. THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCLOSED, BUT THIS MAY WE DONE TOMATROW.

FOR THE TIME BEING THE HIGHEST OFFICIALS ARE WITHHOLDING ANY COMMENT ON WHETHER THE S. AND PELIEVES THAT POWERS FULFILLED HIS CONTRACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAID IN A NEWS CONFERENCE A WEEK AND THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE AT THAT TEME HE HAD NOT DAME SO.

BUT KENNEDY WAS SAID NOT TO HAVE SEEN THE INQUIRY BOARD'S FINDINGS, AS OF THIS FORHING, NOR TO HAVE RECEIVED A REPORT ON THEM FROM MCCONE.

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